

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) In a plasma display panel having a light-emitting element,  
the improvement comprising:

an oxide phosphor in particulate form, wherein

each particle has a surface region including a vicinity thereof modified so that an  
5 elemental composition of the surface region includes more halogen ~~or chalcogen~~ than an  
elemental composition of an internal region of the particle.

32. (Currently Amended) The plasma display panel of Claim 31, wherein  
halogen atoms ~~or chalcogen atoms~~ are chemically bound to the surface region.

33. (Previously Presented) The plasma display panel of Claim 32, wherein  
fluorine atoms are chemically bound to the surface region.

34. (Previously Presented) The plasma display panel of Claim 31 having one or more  
phosphor layers containing the oxide phosphor.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) The plasma display panel of Claim 31 wherein the  
phosphor particle is an alkaline earth metal aluminate phosphor.

37. (Previously Presented) The plasma display panel of Claim 36 wherein fluorine is  
bonded with the alkaline earth metal aluminate phosphor particles.

38. (Previously Presented) The plasma display panel of Claim 31 wherein the phosphor particles are Europium-activated oxide phosphors.

39. (Currently Amended) In a plasma display panel having a light-emitting element, the improvement comprising:

means a phosphor layer for suppressing time-lapse changes in luminescent characteristics of the light-emitting element including oxide phosphor particles having surface regions of the particles modified so that an element composition of the surface region includes more [[of one]] of halogen ~~and chalcogen~~ than an elemental composition of an internal region of the particles.

40. (New) A plasma display panel including one or more phosphor layers each containing an oxide phosphor in particulate form, wherein

an oxide phosphor in which each particle has a surface region including a vicinity thereof modified so that an elemental composition of the surface region includes more halogen, than an elemental composition of an internal region of the particle, the halogen is disproportionately distributed, with more residing at and near a surface of the phosphor layers than in an inner region of each of the phosphor layers.